

DATE: July 23, 2010

TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Sarah Renner, M.P.H., M.B.A.
Director, Indiana WIC Program

SUBJECT: Physician's Letter

Thank you for your support of the Indiana Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. The program serves 176,000 participants every month by providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and financial support for supplemental nutritious foods. WIC Participants, including those enrolled in Hoosier Healthwise/Medicaid, receive a supplemental amount of exempt infant formula or medical food.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify formula eligibility for WIC participants in relation to Hoosier Healthwise/Medicaid reimbursement. Medicaid is responsible for formulas which are deemed medically necessary. The 405 IAC 5-24-9 outlines Medicaid guidelines for coverage of food supplements, nutritional supplements, and infant formulas, and sets forth the requirements for approval of these products by Indiana Medicaid and contracted Managed Care Organizations. For Hoosier Healthwise/Medicaid members in need of medically necessary formula, please contact the member's respective MCO for prior authorization. If the eligible Medicaid member is not assigned to an MCO or is traditional Medicaid on the date of service, Advantage is responsible for granting prior authorization.

In order for participants who may need exempt infant formula or medical food to receive the supplemental WIC benefit, all participants must obtain medical determination of a qualifying condition from a health care professional licensed to write medical prescriptions. The federal regulation for this requirement is listed at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 7 CFR Ch. II (1-1-10 Edition). Below is a table of qualifying conditions:

<u>Qualifying conditions include,</u> but are not limited to:	<u>Non-qualifying conditions include,</u> but are not limited to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premature birth. • Low birth weight. • Failure to thrive. • Inborn errors of metabolism and metabolic disorders. • Gastrointestinal disorders. • Malabsorption syndromes. • Immune system disorders. • Severe food allergies that require an elemental formula. • Diseases and medical conditions that impair ingestion, digestion, absorption, or the utilization of nutrients that could adversely affect the participant's nutrition status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formula or food intolerance. • Food allergy to lactose, sucrose, milk protein, or soy protein not requiring an elemental formula. • Management of body weight without underlying medical condition. • Patient/parent preference.

Participants receive the exempt infant formula or medical food only when the *Required Medical Documentation for WIC Formula and Approved WIC Foods* form, or a prescription with all of the required information in the *Required Medical Documentation for WIC Formula and Approved WIC Foods* form, is completed by a licensed health care professional. The *Required Medical Documentation for WIC Formula and Approved WIC Foods* form requests that the health care professional indicate WIC supplemental foods allowed and/or restricted as well as the name of the prescribed formula, quantity needed per day, and length of use. As a reminder, if all information needed in the *Required Medical Documentation for WIC Formula and Approved WIC Foods* document is written in prescription, then the prescription will be accepted by the local WIC clinic.

For your information, the following table summarizes the current infant food package:

Feeding Choice	Quantity of Choices Allowed
Fully Formula Feeding Infants	0-3 months: 9 cans powder formula 4-5 months: 10 cans powder formula 6-11 months: 7 cans powder formula, infant cereal, and fruit & vegetable baby food
Mostly Breastfeeding Infants (<50% formula)	0-1 month: 1 can powder formula 1-3 months: 4 cans powder formula 4-5 months: 5 cans powder formula 6-11 months: 4 cans powder formula, infant cereal, and fruit & vegetable baby food
Some Breastfeeding Infants (>50% formula)	0-3 months: up to 8 cans powder formula 4-5 months: up to 9 cans powder formula 6-11 months: up to 6 cans powder formula, infant cereal, and fruit & vegetable baby food

Please remember that WIC provides only a supplemental amount of exempt infant formula or medical food and is referred to as a secondary provider. Therefore, when a prescription is written for WIC-eligible exempt infant formula or medical food, then a prior authorization must be given to the WIC participant's Hoosier Healthwise/Medicaid Provider. Once the prior authorization is approved, Hoosier Healthwise/Medicaid becomes the primary provider.

Thank you for your continued support of the Indiana WIC Program. We will continue to promote and support breastfeeding as the best feeding choice. Together we continue to improve access to nutritious food and promote healthy behaviors for life.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact:

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